

Message Text

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22

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8771

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, PGOV, PN

SUBJECT: APEDE PREMISES GIVEN BACK

REF: PANAMA 4470

1. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF PANAMANIAN ASSOCIATION OF BUSINESS EXECUTIVES (APEDE) INFORMED US THAT NATIONAL GUARD HAS RETURNED TO THE ASSOCIATION ITS OFFICES FROM WHICH IT WAS EXPELLED FOLLOWING THE JANUARY GOVERNMENT-PRIVATE SECTOR CONFRONTATION. APEDE DOES NOT INTEND TO OCCUPY THE PREMISES IMMEDIATELY, BUT WILL INSTEAD RENT THE OFFICES (SECOND FLOOR) TO ITS FIRST FLOOR TENANT, MARINE MIDLAND BANK. APEDE WILL UTILIZE ITS THIRD FLOOR CONFERENCE FACILITIES AND ADD A FOURTH FLOOR TO ITS BUILDING FOR ITS OWN OFFICE SPACE. IN THE MEANTIME APEDE WILL CONTINUE TO SHARE OFFICES WITH THE PANAMANIAN INDUSTRIALISTS SYNDICATE (SIP).

2. WE ARE ALSO INFORMED THAT JUAN JOSE AMADO, RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF SIP BUT NO LONGER HEAD OF CONFEDERATION OF BUSINESS GROUPS (CONEP), HAS HAD FURTHER EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH PANAMANIAN VICE PRESIDENT GERARDO GONZALEZ IN AN EFFORT TO HELP "KEEP THE PEACE" BETWEEN GOP AND PRIVATE SECTOR. LOCAL PRESS HAS PUBLISHED

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CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN FORMER PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER

OF COMMERCE, MARIO DE DIEGO, AND NATIONAL GUARD IN WHICH HE URGED THAT ANTONIO DOMINGUEZ, ORIGINALLY ELECTED AS HIS SUCCESSOR AS CHAMBER PRESIDENT, BE PERMITTED TO RETURN FROM EXILE. REPLY INDICATED FULL CONSIDERATION WOULD BE GIVEN HIS REQUEST.

3. COMMENT: THESE DEVELOPMENTS, AND IN PARTICULAR THE LONG-AWAITED RETURN OF APEDE OFFICES, ARE A WELCOME SIGN OF GOP-BUSINESS SECTOR RECONCILIATION. ACTION CONCERNING APEDE HAS NOT YET BEEN PUBLICIZED. JORDEN

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